

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/604,248
Docket No.: 9174-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori (US 6,078,318) in view of Nemiroff (US 6,195,393) and further in view of Hasegawa (US 6,459,849). In addition, the Office Action stated claims 12-13 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 1 with the addition of the limitation of the allowable claim 12. After entry of the foregoing amendments, it is believed claims 1-4 and 13 should be allowed.

Moreover, claims 8-11 and 14-15 directly or indirectly depending to claim 1 are withdrawn in response to the previously restriction requirement. Currently, claim 1 is a generic claim and should be allowed. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise includes all of the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

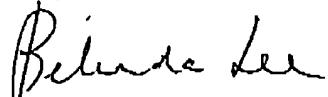
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,


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